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Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 HEW-08 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /060 W
---------- 124280
R 192025Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6133
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2808

PASS HEW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, TBIO, OTRA, OSCI, AR
SUBJ: US-ARGENTINE HEALTH COOPERATION

REF: BA 1229

1. SUMMARY: ARGENTINE PUBLIC HEALTH SECRETARIAT INTERESTED IN COLLARBORATING WITH HEW IN THREE OF FOUR AREAS AGREED TO IN 1972 AND TWO NEW AREAS. SECRETARIAT SUGGESTS THAT NEW AGREEMENT BE DRAFTED. ACTION REQUESTED: INITIAL HEW REACTION TO THIS IDEA. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THEIR RECEIPT OF APR 1 LETTER FROM ASST. SECY EDWARDS, PUBLIC HEALTH SECRETARIAT (RECENTLY UPGRADED FROM UNDERSECRETARIAT) INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CHIEF LEON CALLED MEETING WITH SCIATT TO WHICH HE ALSO INVITED LOCAL PAHO REP.

3. WHILE LEON INDICATED THERE WOULD ALSO BE DIRECT ANSWER TO EDWARDS LETTER, LEON MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) THE 1972 AGREEMENT WAS MORE IN THE NATURE OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BETWEEN TWO PERSONS AFTER A VISIT, AND NEITHER OF THOSE PERSONS ARE STILL IN THEIR POSITION (STEINFELD AND GORDILLO GOMEZ). (COMMENT: THIS IS OF MUCH GREATER SIGNIFICANCE ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE BECASUE OF THE MAJOR CHANGE FROM MILITARY TO PERONIST
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GOVT. HERE IN MAY 1973. THERE IS A GREAT TENDENCY TO DISAVOW

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MANY AGREEMENTS WHICH CAN BE DISAVOWED BECAUSE THEY WERE EXECUTED
BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS NOT "OF THE PEOPLE".)
(B) THE PUBLIC HEALTH SECRETARIAT IS, HOWEVER, GREATLY IN-
TERESTED AT PRESENT IN CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH THE US.,
BUT THE FIELDS OF INTEREST HAVE CHANGED SLIGHTLY. INTEREST
REMAINS HIGH IN THREE OF THE FOUR FIELDS PREVIOUSLY AGREED
TO (CANCER, DRUG ADDICTION - THE MEDICAL ASPECTS, AND RE-
GULATION OF FOOD AND DRUGS), BUT TWO ADDITIONAL AREAS ARE NOW
OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE, AND ARGENTINA PROPOSES TO ADD THEM: CARDIO-VASCU
LAR RESEARCH;
AND RHEUMATISM. NURSING (WHICH LEON SAID WAS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED
BY ARGENTINA) IS NO LONGER OF INTEREST FOR A COLLABORATIVE
PROGRAM WITH US AS THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION REGARDS
IT AS MUCH MORE OF A LOCAL MATTER IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF ARGENTINA.

4. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION DURING WHICH SCIATT STRESSED ABOVE
ALL OUR INTEREST IN MOVING COLLARBORATION AHEAD IN POSITIVE
WAY, IT WAS AGREED THAT LEON (WITH SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
ONLY FROM THE PAHO REP) WOULD DRAFT A POSSIBLE NEW AGREEMENT
ALONG THE ABOVE LINES. PRESUMABLY, SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS WILL BE
LITTLE CHANGED FROM WORDING OF STEINFELD - GORDILLO GOMEZ
AGREEMENT, EXCEPT FOR CHANGE IN FIELDS AS NOTED ABOVE. OVERALL
LEGAL BASIS AS BEFORE WILL BE THE BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. SCIATT AGREED TO REVIEW
DRAFT WHEN PRESENTED AND TO COORDINATE WITH HEW IN DEVELOPING
FINAL TEXT. DEPENDING ON TIMING, LEON INDICATED HE PREPARED
DISCUSS PENDING MATTERS AS WELL WITH DR. EHRLICH AT MAY WHO
MEETING IN GENEVA.

5. COMMENT: AS HEW AWARE, CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH IS OF
PARTICULAR INTERST TO SECRETARY LIOTTA, AND WE BELIEVE ARGENTINA
SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED IN THIS FIELD AT LEAST SO AS TO MAKE TWO-
WAY COOPERATION MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. WE LESS WELL INFORMED
AS TO STATUS OF RHEUMATISM STUDIES HERE, BUT EXPECT ARGENTINE
DRAFT TO OFFER SOME SPECIFICS. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, EMBASSY
URGES HEW TO BE AS OPEN-MINDED AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THESE
CHANGES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE OF INITIAL HEW REACTION TO
ABOVE.
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HILL

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